Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) generally prescribes textbooks prepared by NCERT for all Classes. In respect of those subjects for which the syllabus has been prescribed by CBSE and where CBSE has prepared its own textbooks, the prices of such books are reasonable.

Several State Governments have adopted or adapted NCERT textbooks.

Under Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), free textbooks are provided to children with a ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- per child at upper primary level.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of Airlines

3346. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the background details and the process which culminated into merger of all erstwhile Government-owned airlines into one entity *i.e.*, Air India, indicating profile of the Directors who constituted the respective Boards at each phase of their merger;

(b) the details of expenses incurred in each stage alongwith the merger process *e.g.*, painting of new logos, features of stationeries, dresses of on-board crew and of employees on ground etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had appointed consultants for designing uniform of on-board crew members; and

(d) if so, the profile of consultants, job entrusted to each and fees paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ms. Ritu Beri a renowned fashion designer, was entrusted with the job of designing a new uniform for female cabinet crew and female ground staff. No fee for consultancy was paid. However, an expenditure of Rs. 86,54,600/- was incurred initially for procuring uniforms designed by Ms. Beri for the cabin crew and female ground staff and ties for crew.

Construction of international airport at Jaipur

†3347. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the work for the construction of new building and runway of international standard at international airport, Jaipur and by when it would be opened for the passengers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.